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**HOUSE MEMORIAL 26**

**48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007**

**INTRODUCED BY**

**Ni ck L. Salazar**

**A MEMORIAL**

**REQUESTING THAT THE NEW MEXICO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
ACKNOWLEDGE THE NEED TO PROTECT THE RESIDENTS OF CHAMITA, NEW  
MEXICO AND ITS FELLOW RURAL COMMUNITIES IN RIO ARRIBA COUNTY  
BY RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED STATE  
POLICE PROTECTION IN THE FORM OF ADDITIONAL FIELD OFFICERS  
ASSIGNED TO THE AREA.**

**WHEREAS, rural communities in Rio Arriba county, such as  
Chamita, are supported by only two state field or patrol  
officers, who cover Rio Arriba county as well as portions of  
Sandoval, Santa Fe and Taos counties; and**

**WHEREAS, criminal activity such as extensive property  
damage, burglaries, drug trafficking and other drug- and  
alcohol-related crimes in the area are rising at an alarming  
rate and threaten the safety of the residents of Chamita and**

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1 Rio Arriba county as a whole; and

2 WHEREAS, criminal activity is more likely to occur when  
3 and where the expected gains are higher, and where a lower  
4 likelihood of arrests by police is a key factor favorable to  
5 criminal activity; and

6 WHEREAS, areas known by criminals to carry a lower  
7 likelihood of arrest attract an increasing number of such  
8 individuals, and this has led to an escalation in criminal  
9 activity in the community of Chamita and the surrounding  
10 areas; and

11 WHEREAS, if the number of police officers assigned to any  
12 patrol area is limited or fixed, then the total number of  
13 arrests that can be made in that area will also be limited or  
14 fixed; and

15 WHEREAS, increasing the number of permanently assigned  
16 state police officers will act as a deterrent to individuals  
17 engaging in criminal behavior through higher rates of  
18 apprehension, arrest and conviction of criminal suspects;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
20 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it recognize  
21 that the residents of Chamita and the neighboring areas in Rio  
22 Arriba county have a dire need for assignment of additional  
23 New Mexico state police officers in those areas to reinforce  
24 community efforts to halt and reverse the current escalation  
25 of criminal activity that is adversely affecting the citizenry

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1 and degrading these communities; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the house recognize the  
3 necessity for the required legislative action and  
4 appropriation of funds that will enable the New Mexico state  
5 police to assign the required additional law enforcement  
6 officers requested by the residents of Chamita and the  
7 surrounding areas of Rio Arriba county; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
9 transmitted to the office of the governor, the drug  
10 enforcement advisory council, the Rio Arriba county  
11 commission, the Rio Arriba sheriff's office and the New Mexico  
12 state police.